

Preface

The 10th International Symposium on Soil Biology took place in Keszthely at the University of Agriculture from 27 to 31 August, 1989. The Symposium was the follow-up of a conference series launched in 1960 by the Soil Biology Section of the Hungarian Soil Science Society. Soil biology and the conservation of the biosphere are in the focus of interest as harmful anthropogenic effects causing soil pollution are becoming more wide-spread. Soil pollution not only adversely affects soil fertility but also damages the quality of agricultural products.

The 125 papers submitted to the Organizing Committee covered different aspects of the following subjects:

1. The effect of mineral fertilization on soil biological processes.
2. Interaction between pesticides and soil organisms.
3. The role of soil organisms in the decomposition and synthesis of soil organic matter.
4. Soil organisms as components of soil ecosystems.
5. The role of soil organisms in soil forming processes.
6. The importance of biological nitrogen fixation.
7. Soil biotechnology and its role in the activation of soil biological processes.

The present meeting was the most successful of all the soil biology conferences held so far. The Symposium was attended by more than 150 participants, representing 22 countries.

We were honoured by the participation of Prof. Y. Takai, President of the International Society of Soil Science /ISSS/, Prof. I. Szabolcs, Deputy Secretary General of ISSS and Prof. J. G. Ottow, Chairman of the Commission of Soil Biology of ISSS.

The Symposium was opened by Prof. I. Láng, Secretary General of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The participants were welcomed by I. Szabolcs on behalf of the ISSS and the Hungarian Soil Science Society, and by P. Horn, Rector of the host Institute. Subsequently, seven eminent experts on soil science presented plenary lectures. During the three-day meeting 70 papers were presented in the two parallel sessions and in addition, a poster session was held. The presentation of the papers was followed by lively, extensive discussions, making it possible to exchange opinions and to debate various approaches and methodological questions.

In his concluding remarks during the Closing Session Prof. J. G. Ottow summarized the results of the Symposium and underlined its contribution to the development of soil biology. He expressed his sincere thanks to the Keszthely University of Agriculture for hosting the Symposium and congratulated the organizing staff on their successful organization of this inter-

national gathering, making it a professionally useful event for the participants.

On 30 August the participants took part in an excursion to Little Balaton, where they visited the reconstruction works established with the aim of hindering the eutrophization processes in Lake Balaton and of improving and maintaining water quality. After this, the participants became acquainted with the research carried out at the Balaton Limnological Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Tihany.

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Chairman of the
Organizing Committee